



# ARUBA TODAY

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**Bon Bini from Aruba Rob!**

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Aruba's ONLY English newspaper

## President Biden to end COVID-19 emergencies on May 11

By ZEKE MILLER and  
AMANDA SEITZ  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — President Joe Biden informed Congress on Monday that he will end the twin national emergencies for addressing COVID-19 on May 11, as most of the world has returned closer to normalcy nearly three years after they were first declared.

The move to end the national emergency and public health emergency declarations would formally restructure the federal coronavirus response to treat the virus as an endemic threat to public health that can be managed through agencies' normal authorities.

It comes as lawmakers have already ended elements of the emergencies that kept millions of Americans insured during the pandemic. Combined with the drawdown of most federal COVID-19 relief money, it would also shift the development of vaccines and treatments away from the direct management of the federal government.

Biden's announcement comes in a statement opposing resolutions being brought to the floor this week by House Republicans to bring the emergency to an immediate end. House Republicans are also gearing up to launch investigations on the federal government's response to COVID-19.

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President Joe Biden talks with reporters on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington, Monday, Jan. 30, 2023, after returning from an event in Baltimore on infrastructure.

Associated Press

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# President Biden to end COVID-19 emergencies on May 11

Continued from Front

Then-President Donald Trump's Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar first declared a public health emergency on Jan. 31, 2020, and Trump later declared the COVID-19 pandemic a national emergency that March. The emergencies have been repeatedly extended by Biden since he took office in January 2021, and are set to expire in the coming months. The White House said Biden plans to extend them both briefly to end on May 11.

"An abrupt end to the emergency declarations would create wide-ranging chaos and uncertainty throughout the health care system — for states, for hospitals and doctors' offices, and, most importantly, for tens of millions of Americans," the Office of Management and Budget wrote in a Statement of Administration Policy.

More than 1.1 million people in the U.S. have died from COVID-19 since 2020, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, including about 3,700 last week.

Congress has already blunted the reach of the public health emergency that had the most direct impact on Americans, as political calls to end the declaration intensified. Lawmakers



Medical workers fill a hallway in the acute care unit, where about half the patients are COVID-19 positive or in quarantine after exposure, of Harborview Medical Center, Jan. 14, 2022, in Seattle. Medical workers fill a hallway in the acute care unit, where about half the patients are COVID-19 positive or in quarantine after exposure, of Harborview Medical Center, Jan. 14, 2022, in Seattle.

Associated Press

have refused for months to fulfill the Biden administration's request for billions more dollars to extend free COVID vaccines and testing. And the \$1.7 trillion spending package passed last year and signed into law by Biden put an end to a rule that barred states from kicking people off Medicaid, a move that is expected to see millions of people lose their coverage after April 1.

"In some respects, the Biden administration is catching up to what a lot of people in the country

have been experiencing," said Larry Levitt, the executive vice president for health policy at Kaiser Family Foundation. "That said, hundreds of people a day are still dying from COVID." Still, some things will change for Americans once the emergency expires, Levitt pointed out.

The costs of COVID-19 vaccines are also expected to skyrocket once the government stops buying them, with Pfizer saying it will charge as much as \$130 per dose. Only 15% of Americans have received

the recommended, updated booster that has been offered since last fall.

People with private insurance could have some out-of-pocket costs for vaccines, especially if they go to an out-of-network provider, Levitt said. Free at-home COVID tests will also come to an end. And hospitals will not get extra payments for treating COVID patients.

Legislators did extend for another two years telehealth flexibilities that were introduced as COVID-19 hit, leading health care sys-

tems around the country to regularly deliver care by smartphone or computer.

The Biden administration had previously considered ending the emergency last year, but held off amid concerns about a potential "winter surge" in cases and to provide adequate time for providers, insurers and patients to prepare for its end. Officials said the administration would use the next three months to transition the response to conventional methods, warning that an immediate end to the emergency authorities "would sow confusion and chaos into this critical wind-down."

"To be clear, continuation of these emergency declarations until May 11 does not impose any restriction at all on individual conduct with regard to COVID-19," the administration said. "They do not impose mask mandates or vaccine mandates. They do not restrict school or business operations. They do not require the use of any medicines or tests in response to cases of COVID-19." Case counts have trended downward after a slight bump over the winter holidays, and are significantly below levels seen over the last two winters — though the number of tests performed for the virus and reported to public health officials has sharply decreased. □



The Department of the Treasury's seal outside the Treasury Department building in Washington on May 4, 2021.

Associated Press

By **FATIMA HUSSEIN**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The Treasury Department said Monday it plans to increase

its borrowing during the first three months of 2023, even as the federal government is bumping up against a \$31.4 trillion limit on its legal

## Treasury to increase borrowing amid debt ceiling standoff

borrowing authority.

The U.S. plans to borrow \$932 billion during the January-to-March quarter. That's \$353 billion more than projected last October, due to a lower beginning-of-quarter cash balance and projections of lower-than-expected income tax receipts and higher spending.

The increased borrowing will take place as Democrats and the White House push for Congress to increase the federal debt limit. President Joe Biden

wants the cap raised without any preconditions. The new House Republican majority is seeking to secure spending cuts in exchange for a debt limit increase. Treasury officials say the debate over the debt ceiling poses a risk to the U.S. financial position.

"Even just the threat that the U.S. government might fail to meet its obligations may cause severe harm to the economy by eroding household and business confidence, injecting volatility into financial markets,

and raising the cost of capital — among other negative impacts," Ben Harris, Treasury's assistant secretary for economic policy, said in a statement.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, in a letter to congressional leaders earlier this month, said the department had begun resorting to "extraordinary measures" to avoid a federal government default.

She said it's "critical that Congress act in a timely manner" to raise or suspend the debt limit. □



# FDA revamping foods program to move past 'constant turmoil'

By JONEL ALECCIA

AP Health Writer

The head of the Food and Drug Administration on Tuesday announced an overhaul of the agency's food safety and nutrition division, vowing that a new structure will better protect consumers and the U.S. food supply.

FDA Commissioner Dr. Robert Califf said he would create a new human foods program led by a deputy commissioner with authority over policy, strategy and regulatory activities for the part of the agency that oversees 80% of the foods Americans eat.

The move merges two existing FDA programs and some regulatory authorities. Tapping a single leader "unifies and elevates the program while removing redundancies, enabling the agency to oversee human food in a more effective and efficient way," Califf said.

The announcement follows months of scrutiny of FDA over contamination at a Michigan factory that led to a nationwide infant formula shortage. And it follows a scathing report that found FDA's food division was plagued by decentralized leadership, indecisiveness and a culture of "constant turmoil" that impeded actions to protect public health. For years, the agency has been criticized for responding too slowly to outbreaks in produce, heavy metals in baby food and the need to reduce sodium in the U.S. diet, among other issues.

Califf's actions drew mixed reviews from food safety advocates. Some said it was a good start, while others said he didn't go far enough to dismantle ingrained structural problems. "I think it does a good job of identifying the essential problems and addressing them head-on," said Dr. Peter Lurie, who heads the Center for Science in the Public Interest, which focuses on consumer nutrition, food safety and health.

Mike Taylor, who previously served as FDA deputy com-



A sign for the Food and Drug Administration is displayed outside their offices in Silver Spring, Md., on Dec. 10, 2020.

missioner for foods and veterinary medicine, said the new deputy doesn't appear to have full authority over the office responsible for inspecting company plants, laboratory testing, imports and investigations.

"If that's the case, the human foods program at the FDA will remain fragmented and the deputy commissioner will not be empowered to make the change that is necessary," Taylor said.

Califf said that the deputy commissioner will have authority over the human foods budget and priorities. He said it would be a mistake to create "a monolithic organization" to overcome aversion to change. "Just because there's been resistance in the past, it doesn't mean it can't work," Califf added.

The changes aim to straighten out a convoluted leadership structure. The FDA oversees human and veterinary drugs and medical devices, along with much of the U.S. food supply. The Agriculture Department also oversees some food products.

Frank Yiannas, the current FDA deputy commissioner for food policy and response, is leaving his post next month. Susan Mayne, director of the current Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition, said in a statement that Califf asked her to stay on through the transition. The new deputy, who will report directly to the commissioner, will be named by spring, Califf said.

The revamped foods program will include a separate center focused on nutrition, including foods such as infant formula, plus an office to coordinate state efforts to identify and pre-

vent foodborne illness outbreaks. The plan also calls for a new expert advisory committee to weigh in on food safety, nutrition and new food technologies. Under the new structure,

the deputy commissioner will not oversee FDA's veterinary medicine center. Califf said that's because much of the center's work involves animal drugs and devices, not food. In addition, the animal feed industry worried that it would become "subsidiary to human food," Califf said.

That disappointed Mitzi Baum, president of the nonprofit STOP Foodborne Illness. Human foods, animal foods and outbreaks are often closely linked and they should be part of the same program, she said.

"Any change is messy. It's going to be disruptive," Baum said. "Why not make all of the changes that need to be made in order to create the most efficient and effective agency?" □

Associated Press

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# Winter weather cancels flights, leads to death in Texas

By **PAUL J. WEBER**  
and **JEFF MARTIN**  
**Associated Press**

**AUSTIN, Texas (AP)** — Winter weather brought ice to a wide swath of the United States on Tuesday, causing the cancellation of more than 1,600 flights nationwide, bringing traffic to a standstill on an interstate through Arkansas and knocking out power to thousands of Texans.

As the ice storm advanced eastward on Tuesday, watches and warnings stretched from the western heel of Texas all the way to West Virginia. Several rounds of mixed precipitation including freezing rain and sleet were in store for many areas through Wednesday, meaning some regions could be hit multiple times, the federal Weather Prediction Center warned.

Numerous auto collisions were reported in Austin, Texas, with at least one fatality according to the Austin Fire Department.

In Travis County, Texas, which includes Austin, police and sheriff's deputies have been responding to new crashes about every three minutes since 8 a.m., according to the Austin-Travis County Traffic Report Page.

More than 700 flights to or from Dallas-Fort Worth



**A vehicle rests on a barricade as the driver lost control and slid off Highway 6 on Tuesday Jan. 31, 2023 in Waco, Texas.**

**Associated Press**

International Airport and more than 250 to or from Dallas Love Field were canceled or delayed Tuesday, according to the tracking service FlightAware. At Dallas-Fort Worth, a major U.S. airport hub, more than 40% of the flights had been canceled.

Dallas-based Southwest Airlines has canceled more than 500 flights and delayed more than 250 more, FlightAware reported.

About 7,000 power outages in Texas were reported as of late Tuesday morning,

Republican Gov. Greg Abbott said following a briefing in Austin on the worsening conditions. He emphasized the outages were due to factors such as ice on power lines or downed trees, and not the performance of the Texas power grid that buckled for days during a deadly winter storm in 2021.

Fleets of emergency vehicles were fanned out among 1,600 roads impacted by the freeze.

One Texas state trooper was hospitalized with se-

rious injuries after being struck by a driver who lost control of their vehicle, said Steve McCraw, director of the Texas Department of Public Safety.

"The roadways are very hazardous right now. We cannot overemphasize that," Abbott said.

In Arkansas, Interstate 40 Tuesday morning was ice-coated and "extremely hazardous" in the Forrest City area, according to the city's fire department.

Pictures posted on social media showed the crum-

pled cab of a semi-trailer. The department responded to two bad wrecks and about 15 other crashes Tuesday morning, Division Chief Jeremy Sharp said by telephone.

In many of the crashes, the drivers pick up speed on the highway but run into trouble when they reach a bridge, he said.

"They hit the ice and they start wrecking," he said.

"When I-40 shuts down like that, that can be hours of waiting," said John Gadberry, who lives in Colt, Arkansas, not far from the highway.

"I-40 is usually one of the first things that freezes over due to its slight elevation."

By late Tuesday morning, I-40 was cleared and traffic had resumed, the Arkansas Department of Transportation announced. The interstate connects Little Rock, Arkansas, to Memphis, Tennessee.

The storm began Monday as part of an expected "several rounds" of wintry precipitation through Wednesday across Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Tennessee, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Marc Chennard. "Generally light to moderate freezing rain resulting in some pretty significant ice amounts," Chennard said. □

## Indiana justices won't hear 2nd abortion case for now

By **ARLEIGH RODGERS**  
**Associated Press/Report for America**  
**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Indi-

ana's high court said it will not immediately consider a challenge to the state's abortion ban that is based

on the argument that the law violates some people's religious freedoms, leaving that decision to an appeals court, at least for now.

The state Supreme Court issued an order Monday saying the state Court of Appeals will first consider the case, after a lower court judge in December sided with residents who claim the state's abortion ban infringes on their religious beliefs.

The state attorney general's office appealed that decision and asked the high court to take up the case in December, saying in a statement Tuesday that it would "keep defending the law and fighting for life"

in the appeals court.

The American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana filed the lawsuit in September on behalf of those residents who hold Muslim, Jewish and other faiths after Republican state lawmakers enacted the ban last summer. The ACLU did not immediately reply to a request for comment Tuesday.

Indiana's ban, which was signed into law by Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb, goes against those residents' religious values regarding when they believe the treatment is acceptable, the lawsuit argues.

Earlier in January, the state Supreme Court heard arguments in a lawsuit filed by

abortion clinic operators. The court has maintained a block on the abortion ban while it considers the case, after a county judge in September initially found the law likely violated privacy protections under the state constitution. While Indiana's ban is blocked, abortion will remain legal in the state up to 20 weeks post-fertilization.

After the U.S. Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade* in June, religious freedoms lawsuits against states' abortion bans have sprouted across the country, where abortion-rights supporters are aiming to protect access to abortion and defend their beliefs. □



**Abortion-rights protestors march between the Indiana Statehouse and the Indiana State Library where Vice President Kamala Harris was meeting with Indiana legislators to discuss reproductive rights in Indianapolis on July 25, 2022.**

**Associated Press**



# Azerbaijan to U.N. court: Armenia must stop laying land mines

By **MIKE CORDER**

**Associated Press**

**THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP)** —

Azerbaijan appealed Tuesday to the United Nations' highest court to urgently order Armenia to stop the laying of land mines and booby traps on Azerbaijani territory and disclose the location of those already planted, in the latest legal battle focused on the mountainous Nagorno-Karabakh region.

Armenian representative Yeghishe Kirakosyan rejected the allegation, saying his country only laid mines on its own territory as a defensive tactic to combat Azerbaijani aggression. He called Azerbaijan's land mine claims "yet another transparent attempt to deflect attention from its own wrongdoing."

Azerbaijani Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Elnur Mammadov told judges at the International Court of Justice that his country has discovered more than 2,700 Armenian land mines since December 2021, when the court ordered both Azerbaijan and Armenia not to take any action that would aggravate their decades-long territorial dispute.



Exterior view of the Peace Palace housing the U.N.'s International Court of Justice, or World Court, in The Hague, Netherlands, Jan. 30, 2023.

He said the mines and booby traps are a deliberate attempt by Armenia to prevent the return of Azerbaijanis forced from their homes by the conflict.

"If Azerbaijanis preparing the liberated territories for the return of those displaced cannot do so safely, how can displaced Azerbaijanis safely exercise their right to return?" Mammadov said. "The purpose and effect of Armenia's

conduct are clear Azerbaijanis are not meant to."

The claim came in hearings at the court's headquarters in The Hague in a pair of cases brought by Armenia and Azerbaijan alleging breaches of a convention preventing racial discrimination.

The legal skirmishes are playing out against a backdrop of rising tensions just over two years after the neighboring nations ended

a war in Nagorno-Karabakh that killed about 6,800 soldiers and displaced around 90,000 civilians. The remote and rugged region is within Azerbaijan, but had been under the control of ethnic Armenian forces backed by Armenia since the end of a separatist war in 1994. Russia brokered a ceasefire to end the 2020 war. It granted Azerbaijan control over parts of Nagorno-Karabakh as well as ad-

jacent land occupied by Armenians. Russia sent a peacekeeping force of 2,000 troops to maintain order.

Mammadov said that 282 Azerbaijanis, including 33 civilians, have been killed by mines since the war ended.

"Armenia's planting of land mines and booby traps in or near areas where Azerbaijanis once lived — and are expected to return — specifically to terrorize Azerbaijanis must be understood in the broad context of its over three decade long campaign of ethnic cleansing and anti-Azerbaijani incitement," he said.

At hearings Monday, Armenian lawyers urged the court to order Azerbaijan to break up a road blockade that is isolating Nagorno-Karabakh, calling the action part of an act of "ethnic cleansing."

Azerbaijan rejected the claim, accusing Armenia of using the dispute to create leverage in peace talks. The road, known as the Lachin Corridor, is the only land connection between Armenia and the ethnic Armenian Nagorno-Karabakh region in Azerbaijan. □

**Associated Press**

## Brazil's Bolsonaro applies for 6-month U.S. visitor visa

By **DAVID BILLER**

**Associated Press**

**RIO DE JANEIRO (AP)** —

Former Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro has filed a request for a six-month visitor visa to stay in the U.S., indicating he may have no immediate intention of returning home, where legal issues await.

The application was first reported by The Financial Times, citing Bolsonaro's immigration lawyer, Felipe Alexandre. Contacted by The Associated Press, the lawyer's firm, AG Immigration, confirmed the report. Bolsonaro left Brazil for Florida on Dec. 30, two days before the inauguration of his leftist rival, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva. The ceremony proceeded with-

out incident, but a week later thousands of Bolsonaro's die-hard supporters stormed the capital and trashed the top government buildings demanding that Lula's election be overturned.

Bolsonaro is being investigated for whether he had any role in inciting that uprising. It is just one of several probes targeting the former president and that pose a legal headache upon his eventual homecoming, and which could strip him of his eligibility in future races or worse.

For the first time in his more than three-decade political career as a lawmaker then as president, he no longer enjoys the special legal protection that re-

quires any trial be held at the Supreme Court.

It has been widely assumed though not confirmed that Bolsonaro entered the U.S. on an A-1 visa reserved for sitting heads of state. If so, he would have 30 days from the end of his presidential term to either leave the U.S. or adjust his status with the Department of Homeland Security.

Meantime, the shape of his political future and his potential return to Brazil has been a matter of rumor and speculation.

Bolsonaro's calculus appears to be to distance himself from the radicals whose destruction in the capital could implicate him in the short term, with the aim of some day return-



Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro looks on after speaking from his official residence the Alvorada Palace in Brasilia, Brazil, Nov. 1, 2022.

**Associated Press**

ing to lead the opposition, said Mario Sérgio Lima, a political analyst at Medley Advisors.

"He is giving it some time, staying away a bit from the country at a moment when he can begin to suffer legal consequences for

his supporters' attitudes," said Lima. "I don't think the fact of him staying away is enough."

The processes will continue, but maybe he thinks he can at least avoid some sort of revenge punishment." □



# Global report highlights link between corruption, violence

By KIRSTEN GRIESHABER

Associated Press

**BERLIN (AP)** — Most of the world continues to fail to fight corruption with 95 % of countries having made little to no progress since 2017, a closely watched study by an anti-graft organization found Tuesday.

Transparency International's 2022 Corruption Perceptions Index, which measures the perception of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, also found that governments hampered by corruption lack the capacity to protect the people, while public discontent is more likely to turn into violence.

"Corruption has made our world a more dangerous place. As governments have collectively failed to make progress against it, they fuel the current rise in violence and conflict — and endanger people everywhere," said Delia Ferreira Rubio, the chairperson of Transparency International. "The only way out is for states to do the hard work, rooting out corruption at all levels to ensure governments work for all people, not just an elite few," she added.

The report ranks countries on a scale from a "highly



Police block a protest against the jailing of opposition leader Alexei Navalny in Yekaterinburg, Russia, Saturday, Jan. 23, 2021.

corrupt" 0 to a "very clean" 100. Denmark is seen as the least corrupt this year with 90 points, and Finland and New Zealand both follow closely at 87. Strong democratic institutions and regard for human rights also make these countries some of the most peaceful in the world, the report said.

However, the report also shows that while western Europe remains the top-scoring region, some of its countries are showing worrying signs of decline.

The United Kingdom dropped five points to 73 its lowest ever score. The report said a number of scandals from public spending to lobbying, as well as revelations of ministerial misconduct, have highlighted woeful inadequacies in the country's political integrity systems. Public trust in politics is also worryingly low, it said.

Countries like Switzerland, at 82, and the Netherlands, which scored 80 points, are showing signs of decline

amidst concerns over weak integrity and lobbying regulations even though their scores remain high in comparison to the rest of the world.

In eastern Europe corruption is seen as remaining rampant as many countries reached historic lows.

Russia in particular was highlighted as a glaring example of corruption's impact on peace and stability. The country's invasion of Ukraine almost a year ago was a stark reminder of the

threat that corruption and the absence of government accountability pose for global peace and security, the report said. It added that kleptocrats in Russia, which is at 28 points, have amassed great fortunes by pledging loyalty to President Vladimir Putin in exchange for profitable government contracts and protection of their economic interests.

"The absence of any checks on Putin's power allowed him to pursue his geopolitical ambitions with impunity," the report concluded. "This attack destabilized the European continent, threatening democracy, and has killed tens of thousands."

Before the invasion, Ukraine, which scored 33 points, had a low score but was undertaking important reforms and steadily improving. Even after the outbreak of the war, the country continued to prioritize anti-corruption reforms. However, wars disrupt normal processes and exacerbate risks, the report pointed out, allowing corrupt actors to pocket funds meant for recovery.

Earlier this month investigations exposed alleged war profiteering by several senior officials. □

Associated Press

## EU lawmakers move to lift immunity of scandal suspects

**BRUSSELS (AP)** — An influential committee at the European Union's parliament

voted unanimously on Tuesday to lift the protective immunity of two

lawmakers being sought by Belgian authorities on suspected links to a major corruption scandal.

The European Parliament's legal affairs committee decided by 23 votes to zero, with no abstentions, to lift the parliamentary immunity of Belgian lawmaker Marc Tarabella and Italian Andrea Cozzolino, its chairman, Adrian Vazquez Lazara, announced on Twitter. The move paves the way for the full house to vote on whether to remove their protections on Thursday so that the two men, who are members of the center-left Socialists and Democrats (S&D) political group hardest hit by the scandal, can

be questioned by Belgian prosecutors.

Hundreds of thousands of euros (dollars) were seized in raids across Brussels in December. Four people were charged with corruption, money laundering and membership in a criminal organization for allegedly accepting bribes from Qatari and Moroccan officials to influence parliamentary proceedings.

They are S&D lawmaker Eva Kaili, who was an assembly vice president until the charges came to light; her partner and parliamentary assistant Francesco Giorgi; former S&D lawmaker Pier Antonio Panzeri, and the head of a charity group,

Niccolo Figa-Talamanca. Qatar and Morocco deny any involvement.

The request by prosecutors for parliament to lift the immunity of Tarabella and Cozzolino suggests that they too could be charged. Both men deny wrongdoing and have said they are willing to talk to investigators. A lawyer for Panzeri's wife and daughter, who were also being sought over suspected links to what's one of the EU's biggest-ever scandals, said Monday that they had been freed from house arrest after Belgian authorities abandoned their attempt to have the two transferred for questioning. □



Silvia Panzeri, the daughter of former MEP Antonio Panzeri, leaves the Brescia law court on a penitentiary police car, in Brescia, northern Italy, Dec. 20, 2022.

Associated Press



## First day of Royal visit ends with beautiful art and dance performances

(Oranjestad)—Yesterday, Aruba welcomed King Willem-Alexander, Queen Maxima and Heir to the crown, Princess Amalia. After a morning schedule filled with protocol activities, meetings with the Aruban government, Parliament and Ministers, the Royal Family arrived at San Nicolaas and ended their first day visit at Nicolaas Store, where they were seen enjoying beautiful dance performances and poetry.

During their visit to San Nicolaas, the Royal Family swung by the Filomena College elementary school and high school, where they witness an exposition about the Aruban hero of the Second World War, Boy Ecury. Afterwards, they visited the mural paintings in the city center. Lastly, they enjoyed various performances at Nicolaas Store. The dance performances included a variety of different dance groups and different genres of dance, starting off with contemporary dance by the Popcorn Dancers. Then, Kay Quandus took the stage to perform her spoken word piece, a poetry dedicated



to the Heir Princess Amalia. The fun continued with more dance performances from 3 other dance groups: Kids & Youth in Action, NTG Dancers and Dazzling Dancers, kids who all dazzled the Royals with a compilation of Carnaval dances—and not without festive Carnaval clothing—so that the Royal Family can have a taste of how Carnaval is celebrated on the island.

The festivities ended with a surprise flash mob, with people from the audiences getting up on stage and performing their last dance for the Royals. Besides the festive parties, there were notable a few groups with banners, who were there to express a message to the King about pressing matters that they do not agree with in hopes that the King may pay

some attention to these issues.

"I wanted to bring this message to the King: After Aruba was colonized in 1636, we have suffered many unfavorable consequences. Today we are in the year 2023, and we would like to meet with you again. We are on our land; this is all of ours. We welcome the King, not as a colonizer, because he must recognize that we are the legitimate occupants of Aruba, and everything that they have taken away from us must be returned," Helena Croes from Aruban Warriors stated to Bon Dia Aruba. Anouk Balentina, who is known for her fight against the waste facility at Parkietenbos and the contami-

nation that this facility is causing the environment and the effects this have on the public's health, was also present to express her message to King Willem-Alexander:

"During his coronation, the King promised to maintain the constitution, and the constitution says that whenever our fundamental right is not being respected by the national government, it is their duty to assure us our safety and security," Balentina indicated, referring to the current fight against the waste facility and how this violates the fundamental right for life and health of the public, especially those who live in the region of the facility. □





# LOCAL



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## Aruba Tourism Authority honored loyal visitors at La Cabana Beach Resort Aruba



**EAGLE BEACH** - Recently, Aruba Tourism Authority representative Marouska Heyliger had the great pleasure in honoring many loyal Aruba visitors with their distinctive certificates. These certificates are a way to say "Masha Danki" for continuously choosing Aruba as a favorite vacation destination. The titles are as following: 10+ years "Distinguished Visitor", 20+ years

"Goodwill Ambassador" and 36+ years "Emerald Ambassador".

The honorees are: Mr. John and Mrs. Mary C. Rociola from Illinois, United States, who have been honored as Goodwill Ambassadors.

This symbolic honorary title is presented on behalf of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation

to the guests who visit Aruba between the 10-20-35 and more consecutive year mark.

The couple loves coming to the island for it's year-round sunny weather, the friendliest people, the sincerity of Aruba's people, the cleanliness of the island and the fact that it's the best place in the world to vacation.

Ms. Kimberley Richardson representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, and members of the La Cabana Beach Resort bestowed the Ambassador certification to the honorees, presented them with gifts, and also thanked them for choosing Aruba as their favorite vacation destination and their home-away-from-home. ☐



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## Another Treasure of Aruba's Beaches: Sea Glass!

**NOORD** - It is hard to imagine this happening today, but years ago people dumped all kinds of refuse straight into the ocean, including old cars, and their household garbage, which of course included lots of glass. Over the next 30 years the pounding waves cleaned the beach, by breaking down everything but glass and pottery. The pounding waves washed the trash up and down, back and forth. Tons of polished, broken glass pieces were created by the pounding surf. These smoothened, colored glass particles then settled along the sea shore in millions, and that is why you can find these beautiful and colorful pieces on the north shore beaches of Aruba.

Especially on the strip on white sand between the famous Natural Bridge" and the huge red anchor close to "Grapefield" beach you will be able to find your own pieces of sea glass. The sea glass that was created is the product of a very long and interesting process. It can take anywhere from 10 to 30 years to make sea glass. The name for any piece of glass that finds its way

to the ocean and tumbles around in the water long enough is "Sea glass.

The colorful pieces of glass are being used for decoration, handcrafts and jewelry!

Once glass makes its way into the ocean, the glass is broken up into shards and is tumbled around in the water, where sand and other rocks act like sandpaper to smooth out its rough edges. Sometimes as the sea glass is passed through fire, it becomes fire glass, the rarest of sea glass with certain inclusions, just like precious gems.

For years, the water beat against the different kinds of trash being dumped. Glass, household appliances and even motor parts were discarded on the beach. The waves and weather conditions wore down the overwhelming amount of garbage in the water, creating millions of beautiful smooth rocks.

It's hard to believe the short-sighted mistakes we were making that could have potentially ruined these beautiful beaches. But thanks to natural processes, the ocean trans-

formed the trash into the sea glass.

Each colored gem on the beach has its own story.

The ruby red glass stones are typically from old car tail-lights.

Then, the sapphire rocks are the remnants of broken apothecary bottles. The most common and the easiest to find are the brown (Amstel & Polar beer), green (Heineken & Balashi beer) and clear glass which are the soft much loved "soft drink" bottles.

If you like to see the sea glass for yourself, and be in awe of the power of nature, rent a car or jeep and go explore our deserted beaches on the north side of the island. Make it a fun family day!

Even if we didn't mean to pollute the Beaches how we did, it is inspiring to see just how the earth can correct our mistakes.

Funny, how trash can change into treasures!

Everybody knows that you are not allowed to take local shells home, but the people working at the airport have no problem you taking sea glass home. A few of those pieces make great souvenirs. You can place them in a wine glass or large bottle for decoration and every time you look at it a smile will light up your face thinking back of your unforgettable Aruba vacation! □



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Article by Etnia Nativa

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## Flamingos, Aruba: casual visitors

EpisodeCXCI - 191

**Destination values, native heritage, and cultural identity are what we advocate for in our own particular way of safeguarding all reasons to love Aruba. Etnia Nativa, through this cultural blog, "Island-Insight," shares native cultural awareness, educates, and safeguards native heritage.**

It is how we encourage you to experiment with an island-keeper state of mind during your stay. In this episode, we want to raise awareness about the flamingo—beautiful migrating creatures with bright pink feathers, stilt-like legs, and an S-shaped neck that, when threatened, fly together. In that moment, we can observe their pink-orange color as rising flames. The origin of the name flamingo derives from the word "flame," which comes from Spanish "flamenco," or flame-colored. Like Spanish dancers waving their flame-colored skirts

Although they are found in different parts of the world, flamingos are most commonly associated with tropical climates. Flamingos are born with gray plumage and acquire their pink hue by ingesting a type of organic pigment called carotenoid, which comes from algae and crustaceans found mostly in tropical salt lakes and is their main source of food. Microscopic algae produce carotenoids as part of their existence, which gives flamingos their distinctive feature of bright pink feathers.

Our sister island of Bonaire is one of the main breeding locations for the Caribbean flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*). By the thousands, these long, elegantly pink birds walk on their long stilt legs in and around the salt lakes called pans, building their solid mud mound nests at short but dignified distances from each other. The annual average number of flamingos is an indicator of the health of salt lakes and wetlands. Therefore,



every month, the number of flamingos is counted at several key locations on that island. These migratory birds have a small but important and stable population on Bonaire.

There are six species of flamingo: the American Flamingo (Caribbean Flamingo), Andean Flamingo, Chilean Flamingo, Greater Flamingo, James's Flamingo (Puna Flamingo), and Lesser Flamingo.

The American flamingo is a large species of flamingo, closely related to the greater flamingo and Chilean flamingo, both native to the Neotropics. It is also known as the Caribbean flamingo, although it is also present in the Galapa-

gos Islands. It is the only flamingo that naturally inhabits North America.

On Aruba, flamingos are very rare. A small group of not more than five can sometimes be seen in marshes and salt lakes. All other live flamingos on Aruba are birds kept in captivity by the tourist industry, where their feathers are cut in order to hamper their flight and escape. These cruel acts must be addressed by animal rights groups and reconsidered by our authorities since these are wild animals captured for commercial purposes.

Intrigued by Aruba's origins and its cultural heritage? Then we encourage you to do something outside of the tourist grid. Become one of the few visitors to Etnia Nativa, a private residential encounter set up where you can touch and be touched by authentic Aruba heritage, a spectacle of native art, archaic and archaeological artifacts, lithic tools, colonial furniture, and other items from the old Aruba. Get inside a recycled environment full of peace, relaxation, knowledge, and information.

Etnia Nativa is, since 1994, the home of Anthony, our acclaimed columnist, artist craftsman, and island Piache, who guides and lectures you through his resplendent collection. E.N. is the only place that recreates and introduces you to an authentic glimpse into Aruba's native cultural heritage. Something completely different for a change—a contemporary Native Aruba experience!

Appointment is required + 297 592 2702  
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## Chef Ever de Peña: “I love to tell stories through my cooking”

Ever de Peña, a professional chef who is only 36 years old, is preparing to open his own restaurant soon. After a long trajectory, different experiences and competitions, Ever is ready to tell a story through his cooking. In an interview with Bon Dia Aruba, Ever shared how he found his passion for cooking and how he came to the decision to have his own restaurant.

Ever shared how he started his studies at the EPB secondary school. Afterwards, he graduated to the EPI University and he always stayed working in hospitality and tourism. He finished university with an Associate Degree in three years, during which he worked and went to school. He worked at the Calypso restaurant at the Casa Del Mar hotel. After Casa Del Mar, Ever started a new job at the Renaissance Hotel.

Ever graduated top of his class. Afterwards, he stayed at the university and followed another course called EAI, which is a level higher.

He further shared that after his time at the Renaissance hotel, he worked at Cooks Restaurant downtown. While he was working there, he was also studying abroad, in places like California and even Italy.

During his time at Cooks Restaurant, Ever joined in a culinary competition at EPI and won. After he graduated from the university a second time, he went to work at the Manchebo Hotel, where he started out as a Sous Chef. After two years, he was promoted to Executive Chef, the youngest one on the island.

In 2016, Ever competed for the title of Iron Chef in Aruba, going up against other chefs from Marriott and Ritz Carlton hotels. It was during this competition that he formed a friendship with the Executive Chef of Marriott, who offered him the job of Executive Sous Chef. It was with this offer that Ever left Manchebo and started working at Marriott that same year.

“The good thing about



Marriott is that every year I would travel twice a year, and we would also bring foreign chefs in our kitchen. While I was working at Manchebo, I also traveled a few times to represent the hotel,” he said.

Four years ago, Ever's ex-boss left Marriott and opened his own restaurant. Two years ago he offered Ever the opportunity to open another one with him: “I kept thinking about it and I think that now is the time to do it. That's what I'm working on right now, actually.”

Ever shared that he did not always have a passion for cooking. His love grew throughout the years he experienced what it was like to be a chef: “I remem-

ber when I was at EPI and I told my mentor that I just wanted my diploma, so that I could live in another country and be a hotel manager. But when I started working as a chef, I just fell in love with it. One thing led to another and I don't think there's anything I love more than cooking now,” he expressed.

He noted that even though he does not have a favorite dish, he loves working with seafood, fish especially, than anything else: “I think fish is so versatile compared to beef. I don't have any specific favorites, but I love cooking with quality ingredients to get the best flavors out of them,” he said.

In terms of his experiences

competing, Ever shared that he loved it, and that he is disappointed that there has not been another cooking competition in Aruba for more than five years now.

“I think it's a great thing to do as a chef, and as a student, you learn a lot. The culinary world can be very stressful and I think a competition can help you calm down. I competed four times and I always had a blast, not because I won, but the overall experience was great.”

In terms of his restaurant that is opening soon, Ever shared that it would be a small place, with room for 24 people, plus an extra 16

at the bar. He explained that the reason behind the limited seating is so he could tell a story through his cooking: “I think with this concept, I can make 16 people happy all night. It's a space where I can express myself through the food,” he added.

Lastly, Ever wants to send a message for the Aruban community, especially the younger generation who are still looking for their passion in life: “My message is that it doesn't matter what you end up doing, do it with passion. I remember my mother telling me that it doesn't matter if I end up picking up trash, or whatever, just do it like you love it. That's my advice.” □



# CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

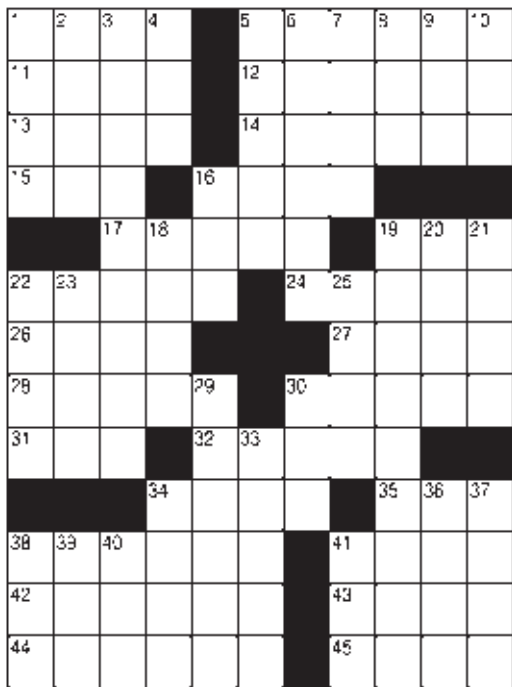
**ACROSS** 44 Not so small  
1 Smell  
5 Cube face 45 Jekyll's alter ego  
11 Haleakala setting

**DOWN**  
1 Yemen neighbor  
2 Secluded valley  
3 Unemployed  
4 Brazilian city  
5 "Beat it!"  
6 Trembles  
7 "Exodus" author  
8 Wagon puller  
9 Fish eggs  
10 Hosp. sections  
16 Galley item  
18 Nevada city  
24 Impudent  
26 Steel ingredient  
27 School near Windsor  
28 A googol has 100  
30 Yankee Stadium setting  
31 Inquire  
32 Geometry class challenge  
34 Put together  
35 Touch lightly  
38 Teem  
41 Edison's middle name  
42 Hotel area  
43 Enter the regatta



Yesterday's answer

19 Like some 30 "—  
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stand-in addition  
21 Bobcat's 34 Psycholo-  
kin gist Carl  
22 Minnelli of 36 Gung-ho  
"Cabaret" 37 Account  
23 Valuable 38 Maximum  
rocks amount  
25 Flying 39 Frilly wrap  
start? 40 Owned  
29 Dish- by us  
washing 41 Blond  
aid shade



2-1

AXYDLBAAXR  
IS LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

2-1 CRYPTOQUOTE  
CV ZXCG HK HZHUV CWZLWVX.

VWR JHMMGE CV YXLPGT.

STGSXTG LW EHG. — "LPG

STHZDGKK ATHEG"

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: LIFE MOVES PRETTY FAST. IF YOU DON'T STOP AND LOOK AROUND ONCE IN A WHILE, YOU COULD MISS IT. — "FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF"

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WK 7 and 14 - all views

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# Millennial Money: 6 ways to move out of your parents' house

By **KATE ASHFORD**  
of **NerdWallet**

Nearly a quarter of millennials (22%) are living with their parents, and more than half of those living with them (55%) made the move in 2022, according to a December survey from PropertyManagement.com.

Many said they're back home due to high rent, money concerns or job losses and 9 in 10 say they would move out if they made more money.

"It can be very frustrating for the parents and the young adult to be in a more dependent position than what their age dictates," says Mariana Martinez, senior family dynamics consultant and vice president for Wells Fargo Wealth and Investment Management. "It is useful to keep in mind that there were extraordinary circumstances that led them to their current situation."

Here are some steps to help you find your feet again on your own.

## 1. GET CLEAR ON WHAT YOU WANT

"I ask every client I work with, 'What are your goals, what are you trying to accomplish?'" says Angela Moore, a financial literacy educator and coach with Modern Money Educa-



In this June 15, 2018, file photo, twenty dollar bills are counted in North Andover, Mass. Associated Press

tion. "And most people do not know. They're trying to wing it."

Write down your intentions. Do you want to get an apartment?

Buy a house? Do you want to stay in the same city? Do you want a better-paying job?

"When you write your goals down, it forces you to really think through them and be intentional about what you want to do," Moore says.

## 2. MAKE A SPENDING PLAN

Use whatever tool you like an app, spreadsheet, etc.

to design a budget. How much do you have in savings versus debt? What are your monthly expenses? What needs to change to help you achieve your goals?

"Find out what you need to do and how much you're going to need in savings or money or income to make the changes needed," Moore says.

Use your circumstances to your advantage but that doesn't mean endless shopping sprees.

"I have a client who is in

this situation and the allure to still live 'the successful' lifestyle is strong," says Kyle Newell, a financial adviser in Winter Garden, Florida. "Saying no to going out or finding alternatives to still have fun is key."

Saving is key: Automate the process by having money transferred into savings on paydays. Be aggressive, as you're going to need a security deposit or down payment at the very least to take the next step.

## 3. BUILD AN EMERGENCY FUND

Before you fly the coop, save up a cushion of three to 12 months of living expenses. If the numbers feel overwhelming, start with one month and aim to build up to three months. This might feel like overkill, but it's a crucial safety net. "For most people, the reason why they're in this situation in the first place is because they didn't have that emergency fund," Moore says. "You need to have that in case something happens financially, that you can still pay your mortgage, you can still pay your rent, you can still live."

## 4. BRAINSTORM WAYS TO INCREASE INCOME, IF NEEDED

If money is an issue, you'll have to take steps to bump up your numbers, whether that's asking for a raise, looking for a new position or taking on a side hustle. Not sure where to start? A financial coach might be a good investment; many specialize in job-related advice, in addition to creating financial strategies. If you're not in a position to hire someone, check your local nonprofits.

The Financial Empowerment Center, for instance, offers free financial counseling and has more than two dozen partner locations across the country. □

# American Express launches products for small businesses

By **MAE ANDERSON**  
AP Business Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — American Express is launching a suite of financial service products for small busi-

nesses as it aims build up its presence in the small business sector.

The services, called Business Blueprint, stem from the credit card giant's acqui-

sition of fintech Kabbage in 2020. American Express had been offering small business lines of credit and other services under the Kabbage moniker, but now it will replace those with a suite of products from a cash flow management hub to business checking accounts and lines of credit under the name American Express Business Blueprint. Small businesses often have difficulty securing loans since they lack established credit scores and often don't have a lot of capital on hand.

Some fintech providers have stepped in to offer loans to small businesses, but often at steeper rates compared to traditional

banks. Rates on AmEx Business Blueprint line of credit loans vary widely from from 2% to 9% for a six-month loan to 15.75% to 27% for an 18-month loan.

AmEx said Business Blueprint is about more than just loans, however. It is designed to let small businesses conduct a wide range of tasks they might otherwise do separately taking out loans, paying bills and vendors, and accepting card payments all in one place.

AmEx aims to be a "digital one-stop shop for small businesses financial needs," said Anna Marrs, group president of global commercial services and credit & fraud risk at Ameri-

can Express. "It really marks a new chapter for American Express, the chapter on which small businesses can not only do business with American Express, but also run their businesses with Amex."

It's free to sign up for Business Blueprint, and its digital financial products are available at varying rates. The service launches Tuesday.

Alenka Grealish, principal analyst, emerging tech at research firm Celent, said the effort is part of a broader effort by financial service companies to move away from product-based offerings like one-off loans toward offering a more holistic suite of services. □



An American Express logo is attached to a door in Boston's Seaport District, July 21, 2021.

Associated Press



## Analysis: NBA All-Star reserve voting to lead to some snubs

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

Brace yourself. There's going to be some angry people in the NBA on Thursday night.

With good reason.

The votes from the coaches are now in, and on Thursday, the NBA will reveal the 14 players — seven from the Eastern Conference, seven more from the Western Conference — who got picked to be reserves for the All-Star Game.

They'll join the pool of 10 starters: the Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James, Milwaukee's Giannis Antetokounmpo, Dallas' Luka Dončić, Boston's Jayson Tatum, Brooklyn teammates Kevin Durant and Kyrie Irving, Golden State's Stephen Curry, Cleveland's Donovan Mitchell, Denver's Nikola Jokic and New Orleans' Zion Williamson.

And then the cries of snubbing will begin.

Let's start dissecting this mess with the East. Philadelphia's Joel Embiid is going to be an All-Star reserve, based on both common sense and the fact that NBA coaches wouldn't dare anger one of the league's most hard-to-guard players by not voting for him. Boston's Jaylen Brown, New York's Julius Randle and Miami's Bam Adebayo all



Philadelphia 76ers' Joel Embiid reacts after a play during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Denver Nuggets, Saturday, Jan. 28, 2023, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

should be All-Stars.

That's nine from the East. That leaves no more than three slots left for this group — Atlanta's Trae Young, Chicago's DeMar DeRozan and Zach LaVine, New York's Jalen Brunson, Miami's Jimmy Butler, Orlando's Paolo Banchero, Indiana's Tyrese Haliburton and Cleveland's Darius Garland. And all eight of those guys, plus some others, are all worthy candidates.

"Tyrese Haliburton is an artist," Pacers coach Rick Car-

lesle said earlier this season. "And you know, some people that have unconventional ways to be successful in this game, you have to just leave them alone and allow them to do what they do. His artistry is the way he gets the ball in the basket, the way he sees the game, the way he connects teammates and the special person that he is." Sounds like an All-Star. A lot of coaches can make similar arguments for their guys, and not be lying when they make them.

You can see how messy this is going to get.

It might be even worse out West. Sacramento's Domantas Sabonis, Oklahoma City's Shai Gilgeous-Alexander, Utah's Lauri Markkanen, Memphis' Ja Morant and Portland's Damian Lillard should be locks for reserve nods. The only question on the Lakers' Anthony Davis is if missing a bunch of games with injury will weigh on the minds of coaches; his numbers are more than good enough, except for that pesky

"games played" column. If Davis and those five other players make it, that leaves one spot on the West roster. ONE.

Phoenix's Devin Booker is averaging about 27 points a game. Minnesota's Anthony Edwards is averaging about 25 points a game. Sacramento's De'Aaron Fox is averaging about 24. Odds are, at least one of those guys will miss out on being picked Thursday night.

Maybe two. Maybe even all three.

Denver leads the Western Conference and should have more than one All-Star, so that suggests Aaron Gordon — who has been fantastic this season — will get a long look. An All-Star Game without Los Angeles Clippers teammates Paul George and Kawhi Leonard would make no sense, given how they're playing this season. But that could happen. New Orleans' CJ McCollum has averaged nearly 20 points per game in his career, is averaging a tick above that this season, and still hasn't been an All-Star. Coaches had to have considered Phoenix's Chris Paul for their ballots as well. All we know for certain is there will be some very good players who didn't make the cut. □

## Taurasi to take part in USA Basketball training camp

By **DOUG FEINBERG**  
**AP Basketball Writer**

Diana Taurasi's USA Basketball career isn't done just yet.

The five-time Olympic gold medalist will take part in a national team training camp in Minnesota next month. Taurasi told The Associated Press last summer that she would consider playing with USA Basketball if she was healthy enough. She injured her quad shortly after and didn't participate in the FIBA World Cup that the Americans won in Australia.

While Taurasi will be at the camp, Brittney Griner won't. She is still part of the pool that the 2024 Olympic team will be chosen from,

but Griner hasn't been out in public much since a prisoner swap in December brought her home from Russia after a 10-month ordeal that captivated world attention. Griner said she plans on playing in the WNBA this year.

Taurasi is a free agent right now, but is expected to return to the Phoenix Mercury — the only team she's played for in her WNBA career. She turns 41 in June and would be 42 at the time of the Paris Olympics in 2024. The WNBA's all-time leading scorer and her good friend Sue Bird hold the record with five Olympic gold medals. The pair helped the U.S. win a seventh consecutive gold at

the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Bird retired from playing at the end of last season.

Other players expected at the training camp that will run from Feb. 7-9 include former Olympic or World Cup gold medalists: Ariel Atkins and Elena Delle Donne of Washington; Napheesa Collier of Minnesota; Alisha Gray of Dallas; Sabrina Ionescu and Betnijah Laney of New York; Kelsey Plum and Jackie Young of Las Vegas; Kahleah Copper of Chicago and free agent Angel McCoughtry.

Natasha Howard, Marina Mabrey and Arike Ogunbowale of Dallas will also be at the camp as well as Phoenix's Brianna Turner. Delle Donne has dealt



United States' Diana Taurasi, left, and Brittney Griner take part in a women's basketball practice at the 2020 Summer Olympics, July 24, 2021, in Saitama, Japan.

Associated Press

with back issues over the past few years and has only been able to play in 28 WNBA regular season

games total over the past two years. She last competed for the U.S. at the 2018 World Cup. □



## Brother vs. brother: Kelces prepare for Super Bowl showdown

By DAVE SKRETTA

AP Sports Writer

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)

— Donna Kelce is going to have to pull out that now-familiar custom jersey — the one with Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce's front stitched to Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce's back — one more time this season.

At least this time, she'll get to see her boys in person.

For the first time in Super Bowl history, a pair of siblings will play each other on the NFL's grandest stage. Kelce helped the Chiefs return to their third championship game in four seasons on Sunday night when they beat the Bengals for the AFC title, while Jason has the Eagles back for the second time in six years after their NFC title win over the 49ers.

"Cool scenario to be in, you know?" Travis Kelce said. "My mom can't lose." Or maybe can't win.

Indeed, there have been plenty of famous NFL siblings over the years, and many had some memorable matchups: Peyton vs. Eli Manning, Tiki vs. Ronde Barber. But they never reached the same Super Bowl, or had to put their dear old mom in such a predicament, where one will be hoisting the Lombardi Trophy at the other one's expense.

"It's going to be an amaz-



Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce, left, talks to his brother, Philadelphia Eagles center Jason Kelce, after they exchanged jerseys following an NFL football game in Kansas City, Mo., Sept. 17, 2017.

Associated Press

ing feeling playing against him," added Travis, whose team has gotten the better of big brother's Eagles the last three matchups. "I respect everyone over there in the Eagles organization. You won't see me talk too much trash because of how much I love my brother. But it's going to be an emotional game, for sure." Jason Kelce was even ever-so-briefly a Chiefs fan Sunday night, pulling on a Kansas City sweatshirt for about the three hours between the end of the Eagles' 31-7 rout of San Francisco and the finish of

his little brother's 23-20 win over Cincinnati.

"That's it for the rest of the year," Jason said with a smile. "I am done being a Chiefs fan."

He'll leave that to mom and dad.

While her husband, Ed, has mostly kept private over the years, Donna has been a fixture as she crisscrosses the country to watch her boys. During wild-card weekend last year, she started in Tampa Bay watching the Eagles against the Buccaneers, then hopped a plane to Kansas City in time to watch the Chiefs play

the Steelers at night.

She already has seen both of her sons win Super Bowls, too: The Eagles beat the Patriots in 2018 in Minneapolis, and the Chiefs rallied to beat the 49ers in Miami two years later.

She hasn't seen much of them lately, though. The way the playoff schedule worked out for the divisional round and the conference championship games, it was impossible for Donna to make it to see both of her boys in person. In any case, they've come a long way from their solidly middle-class upbringing in

Cleveland Heights, Ohio. Jason blazed the trail as the star offensive lineman who earned a scholarship to Cincinnati, and Travis soon followed suit. Both caught the eyes of NFL scout during their college careers, and of one coach in particular: Andy Reid.

It was Big Red who, while coaching the Eagles, used a sixth-round pick on Jason during the 2011 draft. And two years later, after Reid had gotten a fresh start in Kansas City, the Chiefs used a third-rounder to bring Travis into the fold.

"Big brother probably protected Travis from doing some crazy things. He probably talked him from dropping off a ladder into raked-up leaves once or twice," Reid said Monday. "Listen, they're both at heart very competitive and compassionate, is the biggest thing. They care and they care about people and they care about they're game."

They also happen to be very good at it.

Jason has been to six Pro Bowls and was just voted an All-Pro for the fifth time, and he's emerged as one of the best offensive linemen in Eagles history. Travis has been to eight Pro Bowls, just made a fourth All-Pro team and is second in NFL history to Jerry Rice in playoff catches, yards and touchdowns. □

## Dexter Fowler retires at 36 after 14 major league seasons



St. Louis Cardinals' Dexter Fowler celebrates as he rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run during the second inning of a baseball game against the Cleveland Indians, Aug. 28, 2020, in St. Louis.

Associated Press

Dexter Fowler says he is retiring at age 36 after 14 major league seasons.

An All-Star outfielder in 2016 when he won a World Series title with the Chicago Cubs, Fowler hit .259 with 127 homers and 517 RBIs. A 14th-round pick by Colorado in the 2004 amateur draft, Fowler played for the Rockies (2008-13), Houston (2014), the Cubs (2015-16), St. Louis (2017-20) and the Los Angeles Angels (2021).

Fowler signed a minor league contract with Toronto last March 31. He went 5 for 12 (.417) with three RBIs in three games for Triple-A Buffalo from April 28-30, then was released on May 3.

"From an 18-year-old draft pick in Colorado to a 'vet' in Anaheim -- there are a few things I will never forget," Fowler wrote on Twitter. "Getting THAT call to the big leagues in September 2008. Wow. My world was spinning. My first 'you've been traded to Houston' heart pounding call. The feeling of bliss while hearing the words 'All-Star.' ... Soaking wet and freezing on the field with tears in my eyes after winning the World Series in Chicago. ... I'm mostly proud to look back at my career knowing that I played the game the right way and did my best to make a positive impact beyond the win." □